

Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

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Internet Safety For Teens Spotlights Now That Vacation Is Starting

What: Now that the holiday break is coming and kids are out of school and more frequently on their home computer, state officials want to alert parents and teenagers to the risks of going online. This will be a discussion about computer safety by the state's top law enforcement chief and other top officials. They will also introduce a new brochure on Internet safety and provide tips for staying safe on-line.

Where: Bush Middle School, 2120 83rd Ave SW, Tumwater

When: Friday, December 16th at 10:30 a.m.

Who: WSP Chief John Batiste, Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson, State Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, Department of Information Systems Director Gary Robinson.

Why: According to a Youth Internet Safety Survey, 14-17 year olds were the most likely to receive sexual solicitations online (77%). Over 65% of the time the youth met the person who sexually exploited them through a chat room. Teenagers are the most vulnerable to be solicited and exploited on-line. They are also at-risk of identity theft and increasing risk for computer viruses.

Other: Detective Rachel Edwards, a WSP undercover detective and internet crimes investigator will also be available for interview on this topic.

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